SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER 2002

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs to sarlnews@hotmail.com not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both English and Afrikaans.

In the news today:

CHRISTMAS NET

JT44 EME OPERATION

SOMETHING INTERESTING FROM THE CAPE

70 MHz/4m ACTIVITY IN PRETORIA

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from nine to thirteen hours (09:00 to 13:00) at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

The news follows in detail:

CHRISTMAS NET

A special Christmas Net, hosted by Sid Tyler ZS6AYC, will be held this coming Tuesday 24 December 2002 at 23:45 CAT on 3,718 MHz LSB. Everybody is invited to join the net and pass along your Christmas greetings.

SOMETHING INTERESTING FROM THE CAPE

The Afrikaans version of the bulletin relayed to Cape Town via the Internet.

On Sunday 15 December the Afrikaans version of the SARL bulletin was relayed to Cape Town by means of the internet. From Cape Town OM Andre ZR1TRD coupled by means of e-link with OM Gary ZS6YI in Vereeniging and the Afrikaans bulletin was transmitted via the internet on the 145,700 repeater in Cape Town. This transmission was very successful and will in future again be made possible by means of internet coupling.

CHANGE IN TIME FOR SARL PRESIDENT'S NET

In previous bulletins it was reported that as from January 2003 the President's Net will be on the air every second Sunday of the month. It has since been decided that it will take place on the LAST Sunday of the Month since Sid, ZS6AYC has indicated that the last Sunday would suit him better.

WSJT JT44 EME OPERATION

During the past few months VHF EME operation around the world has reached new heights of activity, with much of this excitement generated by the WSJT software. This program, written by Joe Taylor K1JT makes EME operation accessible to even the smallest station.

In the past moonbounce or EME operation has been thought of as being the territory of the big guns with large tracts of real estate filled with huge antenna arrays and microwave dishes. While these are still very much an asset to the VHF operator, the JT44 mode of WSJT lets anyone with a computer coupled to a multimode VHF transceiver and a modest antenna system literally work the world on EME.

While most of the JT44 EME activity has been on the 144 MHz band, there have also been a number of contacts on 50 MHz and the higher bands extending even up into the microwaves. Locally, Paul, ZS6NK has had the largest number of EME contacts on JT44, having chalked up a contact with his fifth 50MHz station this week, W6JKV/5 in Texas. Also among Paul's 50 50MHz EME contacts is the first ever 50MHz QSO between South Africa and New Zealand, a contact that wouldn't have been believed possible a few years ago.

This week Paul also moved up a band and made his first 144 MHz JT44 contact with W5UN while running only 45 watts to his 2 Yagi antenna array. An interesting sidelight is the fact that the majority of Paul's contacts have been made near moon apogee, a time of the month when traditional EME operators seldom operate due to the increased path loss.

ZS6WB has also been running tests with W5UN over the past two weeks to determine how small a station Dave can work on JT44 and they have had success using only 50 watts to a 7 element Yagi with a boom length of less than three metres. To use this mode only a simple computer to radio interface is required and the latest Radio ZS tells you how to construct exactly what you need in an informative article by ZS6ABU.

The PEARS VHF Contest near the end of January has a category for digital stations and now is an excellent time to get ready not only for the contest but for working the world on EME. The PEARS contest has grown rapidly in popularity during the past few years and full rules can also be found in the latest Radio ZS.

NEWS FLASH

On Friday morning 20 December 2002 at South African moonset another 144 MHz EME QSO was completed between W5UN and ZS6WB. What sets this

one apart from many previous QSOs was the low power and small antenna used on the South African end which truly shows that EME operation is possible for anyone willing to go to the effort and lose some sleep.

The output power used at ZS6WB was only 50 watts and the antenna a small 7 element Yagi with a 2,75 metre boom length and a height of only 5 metres above the ground. The JT44 digital mode was used during the contact. W5UN's comment at the end of the QSO was "Congratulations on being the smallest (by far) station ever worked on 2 meter eme".

Our congratulations to Hal on this achievement.

Dave had previously worked W7MEM on 144 MHz CW EME who was using only 25 watts output with an antenna array of four long Yagis. Taking into account the differences in antenna gain and power W7MEM would have had a loop gain advantage in excess of 17 db, a huge amount in EME terms and another demonstration of how K1JT with his WSJT software has revolutionized weak signal VHF operation. The moon was only four days past apogee at a distance of more than 390 000 km from earth and the 15 600 kilometres per watt covered should certainly qualify this as a good QRP QSO.

FINAL RESULTS 2002 SARL VHF/UHF CONTEST

The Contest Committee has released the final results of the 2002 SARL VHF/UHF Contest. These results are the sum of the March and September contests.

FIELD STATION CATEGORY 1st ZS6EGB 20 985,5 points; 2nd ZS4BFN 17 376 points; 3rd ZS6SRC 10 261,5 points.

FIXED STATION CATEGORY MULTIMODE 1st ZS6DDG 29 943 points; 2nd ZR6ZL 29 220 points; 3rd ZS6STN 19 901 points. FIXED STATION CATEGORY FM

1st ZS6XT 701 points; 2nd ZR6RDU 460 points; 3rd ZS6PDK 231 points.

OVERALL WINNER 2002 1st ZS6DDG 29 943 points Fixed Station; 2nd ZR6ZL 29 220 points Fixed Station; 3rd ZS6EGB 20 985,5 points Field Station.

Congratulations to this years overall winner, Derek Gravett ZS6DDG. Derek scored an ubeatable score in the March contest and did not need to have entered the September leg. It was a close run race between Derek and his nearest rival Ockie Taljaard ZR6ZL who valiantly tried to overtake Derek s score but fell a few points shy of achieving top slot. For the first time in many years the two top places went to stations that entered the Fixed Station category and beat all the Field Stations.

70 MHz/4m ACTIVITY IN PRETORIA

In the Pretoria area, there are quite an amount of activity on the recently allocated 70 MHz or 4m band. There are quite regular QSO s on 70,200 MHz

in the evenings. On Sundays the Centurion Amateur Radio Club s bulletin at 07:30, ARMI at 10:00 and the Magalies Radio-amateur Club s bulletin at 11:15, are being relayed on 70,200 MHz by Pieter ZS6PVW. These relays have been heard in Randburg and as far as Cullinan. You are invited to come and talk along, or listen to the relays. Please remember that if you hear strangers on the band, that they have preference on the band, since the 4m band is allocated to us on a Secondary basis.

NEWS ITEMS FOR SARL-NEWS

Because of the large amount of "spam" which has suddenly started to appear on the Hotmail address, persons sending news items to SARLnews are urgently requested to mark them clearly as "SARL NEWS/NUUS ITEM". Quite a number of items received are not very nice. It takes a bit of time to sort the wheat from the chaff.

This brings us to the end of today's news bulletin.

SARL NEWS wishes all it's listeners a very Merry Xmas.

This bulletin was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN and read by ……..from … as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750, and 7082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also a big word of thanks to those persons supplying news for these bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX